RECAPTURED AFRICANS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

ON THE SUBJECT OF

The return to Africa of recaptured Africans, &c.

JUNE 16, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, June 16, 1860.

SIR: I observe from the recent proceedings of the Senate and House of Representatives that it is proposed to authorize the Executive to contract for the return to Africa of such recaptured Africans as may be brought into the ports of the United States, and for their support for twelve months thereafter, at a rate not exceeding \$100 for each individual. I also observe that an appropriation of \$250,000 is proposed to be made for the return and support of those now officially known to be at Key West.

It is not improbable that other slavers will yet be captured; and, indeed, it is reported—not officially, but upon respectable authority—that such is already the fact, in which event additional expenditures must be incurred, and the means therefor should be supplied at the present session. How much may be required it is, of course, impossible to conjecture, as it must depend entirely upon the number of persons

for whom provision will have to be made.

I have the honor, however, looking to the contingent nature of the service, to recommend an appropriation of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, with the remark that even this amount may fall below what will be required for the service of the next fiscal year, and that Congress may be called on to meet the deficiency at its next session.

With great respect, your obedient servant,
J. THOMPSON, Secretary.

Hon. John Sherman, Chairman Committee of Ways and Means, House of Reps.

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